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**NEWS RELEASE**

# Judd Gregg

United States Senator for New Hampshire  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **GREGG COMMENDS CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN CENTER FOR OUTSTANDING RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT**

*Senator lauds Center for creating safer environment for NH youth at UNH event*

DURHAM, N.H. -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-N.H.) today joined University of New Hampshire President Ann Hart and the Crimes Against Children Research Center's Director David Finkelhor at Diamond Library in Durham to celebrate the five-year anniversary of the Crimes Against Children Research Center at UNH. The Center has established itself as a cutting-edge organization in raising public awareness about the many occurrences of crimes committed against children. Senator Gregg, as the incoming Chairman and current Ranking Member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee that oversees funding for the U.S. Department of Justice, has secured over \$7 million for the Center since 1997.

Senator Gregg stated, "There is no greater responsibility we have as a society and a government than to keep our children safe and the Crimes Against Children Research Center is providing the knowledge necessary to combat those who wish to harm children. Over the last five years, the Center has established itself as a premier facility for uncovering and addressing the victimization of New Hampshire's youth, particularly those who prey on young people over the Internet. The work of the Center, combined with the efforts of Chief Brad Russ at the Portsmouth Police Department and the Northern New England Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, have yielded tremendous results and created for a safer, more nurturing learning environment for New Hampshire's children. I commend David Finkelhor and his staff for their hard work and dedication to raising public awareness and making a difference."

Also discussed at the event was the new role of Portsmouth Police Chief Brad Russ, who has been named the Director of Training and Technical Assistance for the U.S. Department of Justice to oversee the national Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces. During his quarter of a century with the Portsmouth Police Department Chief Russ has built a national reputation as a leader in protecting children and has created a number of innovative initiatives, including a branch of the ICAC, to Portsmouth. In his new position with the DOJ, Chief Russ will be stationed at the Center in Durham, which, along with its partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice, has gained national recognition for its research and analysis of crimes involving children, especially those that prey on juveniles using the Internet.

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David Finkelhor stated, "Research done by the Crimes Against Children Research Center shows

that there have been recent declines nationally in sexual assault, sexual abuse, homicide and other crimes against children, as well as reductions in missing children and runaways. However, this development has been overshadowed by publicity surrounding a number of recent serious crimes. This illustrates why we need good data and thorough analysis, so that we make sound decisions that do the most to strengthen these encouraging developments. Senator Gregg's national leadership on this issue has had a significantly positive impact and the Center owes him a tremendous thank you for his support."

Senator Gregg continues to be a leader in the field of preventing child victimization by aggressively funding the FBI's Innocent Images program and he was instrumental in the creation of the "Cybertipline" (1-800-843-5678), a source for parents and kids to report on-line crimes against children. In August 2002, Senator Gregg was honored by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the International Center for Missing and Exploited Children at its first annual "Hope Awards" dinner. NCMEC presented the Congressional Leadership Award to Senator Gregg for his continued support of programs designed to keep children safe. In April 2001, Senator Gregg joined law enforcement officials, child advocates and researchers in Concord for a Town Hall meeting addressing the growing concern surrounding the exploitation of children over the Internet and to raise awareness of the dangers that the Internet can pose to children. The event, hosted by the Northern New England Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, featured an address by Senator Gregg and David Finkelhor. Chief Russ and Senator Gregg were instrumental in the establishment and growth of the Northern New England Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, headed by the Portsmouth Police Department. The Task Force is an interdisciplinary organization comprised of federal and local law enforcement officials, legal and prosecutorial experts, social services and medical and correctional professionals which seeks to prevent and uncover instances of child exploitation over the Internet. Senator Gregg has announced nearly \$600,000 in federal funding through the U.S. Department of Justice for ICAC, which is based in Portsmouth, over the last two years.

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